

## **Parent Rep Meeting & Ms Steele – Autumn (2) 2021**

### **1. Could Donations for mufti/charity days be made on Parent pay / electronically?**

All parent reps at the meeting agreed that it would be beneficial to have the option to make mufti/charity donations electronically. This is something the school will be looking into in the future.

### **2. Reminders /communications**

A request for half termly dates be sent to parents to the beginning of the term or be condensed as there has been a high volume of traffic

The school use to send out something similar however they found that dates/events were constantly changing. All dates of events can be found on the school website. The weekly newsletter, sent out on Friday, also lists all events/activities for the coming week on the front page.

### **3. Pens – Could the school look at using alternative board marker pens that can wash out.**

All board marker pens purchased by the school are washable. Parents are advised to soak the clothing in cold water (ideally) over night before washing as usual, however if the stain is left a few days before soaking it becomes more difficult to remove.

Some children bring in pens from home that may not be washable which is difficult to monitor.

### **4. KS1 Christmas School plays**

Email was sent to all KS1 parents earlier this week (Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec) outlining the school's intentions. The current plan is to go ahead with the KS1 productions so long as COVID cases in school remain low – we are only one of a very small number of schools still aiming to go ahead.

The school feel that this is important and should be a priority therefore they have amended/cancelled a number of other activities e.g. whole school carol concert at All Saints Church, no school assemblies etc. in the hope these events can happen.

In order to go ahead with there will be a number of rules/conditions e.g. randomised allocated seating, max of 2 adults per child, evidence of negative LFT before attending, wearing of masks whilst on school grounds etc.

### **5. Tempest photos background and poses**

A request was made to reassess the use of blue background on school photos and try alternative poses. The decision to change the background from white to blue was made as the white background made some children look pale and unwell. Likewise, alternative poses have been tried in the past which resulted in unrecognisable photos of children requiring them to be re-taken.

The school will look into what else Tempest offer, however in the current COVID climate with the requirement for additional cleaning measures needed between sittings this may not be possible at this time.

### **6. Packed Lunches eaten indoors**

A number of parents are pleased to hear that children are now eating their packed lunches in the dining hall, although queried why children had to sit on the ground when outside. Ms Steele explained that children were not supposed to sit on the floor and that there was plenty of seating available around the playground. Children with packed lunches have also, always had the option to eat in their classroom.

### **7. Soundstart – A request for instruction to be sent home to support home practice.**

A mini concert of the children was recorded during this week's lesson and will be shared with parents in due course. There was also the opportunity for the school to record some useful instructions which can help those children who wish to practice at home.

Over the Christmas break Mrs Winters will also look to create instructions to help support home practicing.

#### **8. Rainbow maths**

A request has been made for parents to have more information on the scheme to help support home-learning e.g. which times tables feature in which colour. Rainbow maths is one of a number of tools the school use, however Mr Prior (maths lead) is thinking of changing the scheme. It was commented that some children have access to the questions at home. Ms Steele noted that children should not be taking rainbow maths questions home as they may just remember the sequence of questions and answers, rather than learning their multiplication tables comprehensively.

#### **9. Homework marking and feedback**

A request for teachers to mark and comment on children's homework was made, as homework is often set with 'pupils mark your own work before handing in'.

Verbal feedback is given to children once the home learning has been handed in. The school find this more beneficial than written feedback. The teacher will either give individual or group feedback and if an area of weakness is identified the teacher will assist/focus or plan a lesson to address it. A more detailed explanation was included in this week's newsletter.

##### **Home Learning Feedback**

We are aware that some parents would like more detailed feedback on home learning tasks set.

As you may be aware, teacher workload is at a crisis point across the country and school leaders have a responsibility to reduce and/or remove tasks which have a limited impact on pupil progress. In order to use teacher time most effectively (where teachers' time has the greatest impact) we do not expect teachers to respond in any detail to the home learning submitted. Written feedback on home learning is incredibly time consuming and has a very limited impact on children's progress. We have arrangements (outlined below) which enable children's home learning to be meaningful, impact progress and be assessed in a manageable way for staff.

- Teachers review work submitted and adapt lessons and feedback in class accordingly.
- Whole class feedback is often given.
- Teachers share examples in class.
- Tasks such as times tables and spellings are assessed in school.
- Teachers praise and give rewards such as house points to motivate children.
- Some tasks are automatically marked such as MyMaths.
- Teachers will give occasional comments with the aim of motivating children, e.g. 'Great effort this week. Well done.'
- Some children will be asked to mark their own task as this provides them with instant feedback where they can learn in the moment.
- Some tasks are preparation for the week ahead.

We are grateful that parents are eager to know how their children are progressing and that they are keen to support them in their learning. We intend to send out targets at the beginning of the spring term to assist with this.

**10. Feeling cold in school**

Some children have complained to parents of feeling cold in the classroom as windows are being open for ventilation to help reduce the transmission of COVID. Ms Steele confirmed that children can wear coats in class so long as they have the ability to work in them. The school recommend children wear additional layers under their uniform such as thermals or skins.

Teachers monitor and make constant assessments of the classroom temperature and needs of the children/staff and will open/close the windows accordingly whilst ensure appropriate ventilation.

**11. Bubbles – reintroduction of class bubbles due to the new COVID variant.**

The reintroduction of class bubbles is currently at the school's discretion. At this time there are no plans to reintroduce class bubbles however assemblies etc have been cancelled.